



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 1089

January Session, 2015



AN ACT CONCERNING MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsection (a) of section 10-220a of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
3 *1, 2015*):

4 (a) Each local or regional board of education shall provide an in-
5 service training program for its teachers, administrators and pupil
6 personnel who hold the initial educator, provisional educator or
7 professional educator certificate. Such program shall provide such
8 teachers, administrators and pupil personnel with information on (1)
9 the nature and the relationship of drugs, as defined in subdivision (17)
10 of section 21a-240, and alcohol to health and personality development,
11 and procedures for discouraging their abuse, (2) health and mental
12 health risk reduction education which includes, but need not be
13 limited to, the prevention of risk-taking behavior by children and the
14 relationship of such behavior to substance abuse, pregnancy, sexually
15 transmitted diseases, including HIV-infection and AIDS, as defined in
16 section 19a-581, violence, teen dating violence, domestic violence, child
17 abuse and youth suicide, (3) the growth and development of
18 exceptional children, including handicapped and gifted and talented
19 children and children who may require special education, including,
20 but not limited to, children with attention-deficit hyperactivity

21 disorder or learning disabilities, and methods for identifying, planning
22 for and working effectively with special needs children in a regular
23 classroom, including, but not limited to, implementation of student
24 individualized education programs, (4) school violence prevention,
25 conflict resolution, the prevention of and response to youth suicide
26 and the identification and prevention of and response to bullying, as
27 defined in subsection (a) of section 10-222d, except that those boards of
28 education that implement any evidence-based model approach that is
29 approved by the Department of Education and is consistent with
30 subsection (d) of section 10-145a, sections 10-222d, 10-222g and 10-
31 222h, subsection (g) of section 10-233c and sections 1 and 3 of public
32 act 08-160, shall not be required to provide in-service training on the
33 identification and prevention of and response to bullying, (5)
34 cardiopulmonary resuscitation and other emergency life saving
35 procedures, (6) computer and other information technology as applied
36 to student learning and classroom instruction, communications and
37 data management, (7) the teaching of the language arts, reading and
38 reading readiness for teachers in grades kindergarten to three,
39 inclusive, (8) second language acquisition in districts required to
40 provide a program of bilingual education pursuant to section 10-17f,
41 (9) the requirements and obligations of a mandated reporter, [and] (10)
42 the teacher evaluation and support program adopted pursuant to
43 subsection (b) of section 10-151b, and (11) mental health first aid
44 training, as described in section 17a-453h, as amended by this act. Each
45 local and regional board of education may allow any paraprofessional
46 or noncertified employee to participate, on a voluntary basis, in any in-
47 service training program provided pursuant to this section. The State
48 Board of Education, within available appropriations and utilizing
49 available materials, shall assist and encourage local and regional
50 boards of education to include: (A) Holocaust and genocide education
51 and awareness; (B) the historical events surrounding the Great Famine
52 in Ireland; (C) African-American history; (D) Puerto Rican history; (E)
53 Native American history; (F) personal financial management; (G)
54 domestic violence and teen dating violence; and (H) [mental health
55 first aid training; and (I)] topics approved by the state board upon the

56 request of local or regional boards of education as part of in-service
57 training programs pursuant to this subsection.

58 Sec. 2. Section 17a-453h of the general statutes is repealed and the
59 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2015*):

60 (a) The Commissioner of Mental Health and Addiction Services, in
61 consultation with the Commissioner of Education, shall administer a
62 mental health first aid training program. Said program shall: (1) Help
63 persons attending the training program recognize the signs of mental
64 disorders in children and young adults; and (2) connect children and
65 young adults who show signs of having a mental disorder with a
66 professional who offers the appropriate services.

67 (b) Said commissioners may seek federal and state funding and may
68 accept private donations for the administration of, and providing for
69 persons to participate in, the mental health first aid training program.

70 (c) (1) For the school year commencing July 1, 2014, the
71 Commissioner of Mental Health and Addiction Services shall provide
72 mental health first aid training to any person appointed to serve as the
73 district safe school climate coordinator, pursuant to section 10-222k.
74 Each such district safe school climate coordinator shall successfully
75 complete such mental health first aid training.

76 (2) For the school year commencing July 1, 2015, the Commissioner
77 of Mental Health and Addiction Services shall provide mental health
78 [and] first aid training to any person appointed to serve as the district
79 safe school climate coordinator for such school year and who did not
80 serve as the district safe school climate coordinator for the prior school
81 year or did not otherwise successfully complete such training. Each
82 such district safe school climate coordinator shall successfully
83 complete such mental health first aid training.

84 (3) No district safe school climate coordinator shall be required to
85 successfully complete such mental health first aid training more than
86 once.

87 (d) Each local and regional board of education [may] shall require
88 teachers, school nurses, counselors and all other school employees to
89 participate in mental health first aid training.

90 (e) On and after October 1, 2015, the Commissioner of Mental
91 Health and Addiction Services shall provide mental health first aid
92 training to each peace officer and employee of an emergency medical
93 services organization, as both terms are defined in section 53a-3.

94 Sec. 3. Section 7-294r of the general statutes is repealed and the
95 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2015*):

96 (a) On and after October 1, 2014, (1) each police basic training
97 program conducted or administered by the Division of State Police
98 within the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection,
99 the Police Officer Standards and Training Council, established under
100 section 7-294b, or a municipal police department in the state shall
101 include a course on handling incidents involving an individual
102 affected with a serious mental illness, and (2) each review training
103 program conducted by such agencies shall make provisions for such a
104 course.

105 (b) On and after October 1, 2015, each police basic training program
106 described in subsection (a) of this section or a municipal police
107 department in the state shall include mental health first aid training, in
108 accordance with section 17a-453h, as amended by this act.

109 Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2015*) The Commissioners of Social
110 Services, Children and Families and Mental Health and Addiction
111 Services shall, in consultation with providers of behavioral health
112 services, including, but not limited to, hospitals, develop and
113 implement a program to (1) improve the provision of behavioral health
114 services to Medicaid recipients, (2) improve the coordination of such
115 services among health care providers, and (3) reduce costs to the state.
116 Said commissioners shall (A) establish qualifications for participation
117 in the program, (B) identify geographic areas in which the program

118 shall be implemented, (C) provide payment incentives to health care
119 providers to improve the quality and decrease the costs of such
120 behavioral health services, and (D) develop quality standards to
121 ensure the improvement and coordination of such behavioral health
122 services.

123 Sec. 5. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2015*) The Commissioner of Social
124 Services shall submit to the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid
125 Services a Medicaid state plan amendment to increase the Medicaid
126 rates for all providers of behavioral health services to equal the
127 Medicare rates for providers of such behavioral health services.

128 Sec. 6. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2015*) The Commissioner of Mental
129 Health and Addiction Services, in consultation with the Commissioner
130 of Social Services, shall submit to the federal Centers for Medicare and
131 Medicaid Services a Medicaid state plan amendment to expand the
132 behavioral health homes delivery model to allow hospitals and
133 federally qualified health centers to be designated as behavioral health
134 homes.

135 Sec. 7. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2015*) The Commissioners of Children
136 and Families and Mental Health and Addiction Services shall annually
137 report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general
138 statutes, to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly
139 having cognizance of matters relating to children and public health
140 concerning the provision of behavioral health services. Such report
141 shall include, but need not be limited to: (1) The admission criteria,
142 admission process and capacity for each mental health and substance
143 abuse program administered by the Departments of Children and
144 Families and Mental Health and Addiction Services; and (2)
145 information for each provider of behavioral health services who
146 receives funding from the state through a program administered by
147 the Department of Children and Families or the Department of Mental
148 Health and Addiction Services, including, but not limited to,
149 deidentified information on: (A) The number of persons served and
150 such persons' level of care, the number of admissions and discharges

151 and the number of service hours and bed days, (B) the average wait
152 times for services, (C) the primary diagnoses and demographics for
153 persons served by such provider, (D) average lengths of stay for
154 persons who receive inpatient services, (E) client satisfaction scores, (F)
155 discharge delays and outcomes, and (G) recovery measures.

156 Sec. 8. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2015*) (a) There is established within
157 the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services a grant
158 program to provide funds to organizations that provide acute care and
159 emergency behavioral health services. The Commissioner of Mental
160 Health and Addiction Services shall establish eligibility criteria for
161 grants under the program and an application process.

162 (b) Grants shall be issued under the program for the purposes of
163 providing community-based behavioral health services, including (1)
164 care coordination services, and (2) access to information on, and
165 referrals to, available health care and social service programs.

166 Sec. 9. (*Effective July 1, 2015*) The sum of three million dollars is
167 appropriated to the Department of Mental Health and Addiction
168 Services, from the General Fund, for the fiscal year ending June 30,
169 2016, for grants issued under the program established under section 8
170 of this act to provide community-based behavioral health services.

171 Sec. 10. (*Effective July 1, 2015*) (a) The Commissioner of Mental
172 Health and Addiction Services shall, in consultation with the
173 Commissioners of Children and Families and Social Services and
174 providers of behavioral health services, including, but not limited to,
175 hospitals, study the current utilization of, and the need for, hospital
176 beds for acute psychiatric care. Such study shall include, but need not
177 be limited to: (1) A determination of the number of short-term,
178 intermediate and long-term psychiatric beds needed in each region of
179 the state; (2) the average wait times for each type of psychiatric beds;
180 (3) the impact of wait times on persons in need of inpatient psychiatric
181 services, such persons' families and providers of such inpatient care;
182 and (4) identification of public and private funding sources to maintain

183 the number of psychiatric beds needed in the state.

184 (b) Not later than January 1, 2017, the Commissioner of Mental
185 Health and Addiction Services shall report, in accordance with the
186 provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing
187 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
188 relating to appropriations, public health and human services
189 concerning the results of the study described in subsection (a) of this
190 section. Such report shall include, but need not be limited to,
191 recommendations concerning: (1) Expansion of the utilization criteria
192 to increase access to acute, inpatient psychiatric services throughout
193 the state; (2) an increase in the number of long-term, inpatient
194 hospitalization beds available for persons with recurring needs for
195 inpatient behavioral health services; (3) funding to increase the
196 number of psychiatric beds; and (4) placement of additional
197 psychiatric beds in health care facilities throughout the state.

198 Sec. 11. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2015*) (a) There is established within
199 the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services a grant
200 program to provide funds to hospitals for intermediate duration acute
201 psychiatric care services. A hospital eligible for a grant under the
202 program shall be located in one of the three geographic regions of the
203 state that lacks intermediate duration acute psychiatric care services.
204 The Commissioner of Mental Health and Addiction Services shall
205 establish an application process for the grant program. Any hospital
206 meeting the eligibility criteria described in this section may apply to
207 said program.

208 (b) On or before April 1, 2016, the commissioner shall award a grant
209 to an eligible hospital in each of the three regions of the state that lacks
210 intermediate duration acute psychiatric care services.

211 Sec. 12. (*Effective July 1, 2015*) The sum of ____ dollars is
212 appropriated to the Department of Mental Health and Addiction
213 Services, from the General Fund, for the fiscal year ending June 30,
214 2016, for grants issued under the program established under section 11

215 of this act for intermediate duration acute psychiatric care services.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2015</i>	10-220a(a)
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2015</i>	17a-453h
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2015</i>	7-294r
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2015</i>	New section
Sec. 5	<i>July 1, 2015</i>	New section
Sec. 6	<i>July 1, 2015</i>	New section
Sec. 7	<i>July 1, 2015</i>	New section
Sec. 8	<i>July 1, 2015</i>	New section
Sec. 9	<i>July 1, 2015</i>	New section
Sec. 10	<i>July 1, 2015</i>	New section
Sec. 11	<i>July 1, 2015</i>	New section
Sec. 12	<i>July 1, 2015</i>	New section

PH *Joint Favorable Subst.*

HS *Joint Favorable*